

3 September 2019

TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS TO LARGER BODIES 2019/20

Report of the Town Clerk

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Sub Committee is asked to note and confirm the funding to the larger organisations, in accordance with the agreed Service Level Agreements.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Support for the larger organisations is funded separately from the Council's Small Grants Scheme, to provide continuity. These larger grants are subject to Service Level Agreements.
- 2.2 The bodies funded in this way are: Museum, Arts Centre, Citizens' Advice Bureau, Leisure Centre, Youth and Community Centre and the West Bay Discovery Centre.
- 2.3 Grants are intended to meet the general running costs. In line with the provisions of the SLAs, presentations were made at the Annual Town Meeting on 26 March 2019.
- 2.4 In April 2017, a two-year funding agreement with the Youth Centre was established, with funding of £10,000 per annum for core running costs. An additional £5,000 per annum was agreed for the provision of a Youth Club, although this is funded from a dedicated budget and does not form part of the larger grants budget considered by this report.
- 2.5 During August 2019, the Town Clerk, Council Leader and BTC representatives to outside bodies met with each organisation to review the operation of the SLAs, and to consider options for the future. A key aspect of these discussions again this year was uncertainty over future funding from the new Dorset Council. All except the Youth Centre rely on significant Dorset Council funding.
- 2.6 With this in mind, discussions centred on the need for the Town Council to be a consistent supporter of local community organisations during a period of uncertainty, and on the need for clarity in principal council funding to inform the Town Council's longer term support.
- 2.7 It had been hoped that by now, there will be greater clarity on this issue. It is proposed that this agreement (with the exception of the Youth Centre) should be for the duration of this Town Council term of five years.

2.8 The West Bay Discovery Centre made a request for an ongoing SLA grant at the Best Value & Scrutiny Sub Committee on 5 March 2019, after the setting of the 2019/20 revenue budget. This was approved by councillors at an annual cost of £3,000.

3.0 FUNDING

3.1 The proposed grant funding for 2019/20 is as below:

Arts Centre	Leisure Centre	CAB	Museum	Youth Centre	WBDC	TOTAL
£6,000	£4,000	£5,000	£4,500	£10,000	£3,000	£32,500

3.2 There is £29,500 in the budget for larger organisations. The additional sum of £3,000 for the West Bay Discovery Centre will show as an overspend on this budget head for this financial year, in accordance with an earlier decision of this council.

3.3 This committee decided that all SLA-supported grants be for a term of five years from 2019/20, with an option to review following Dorset Council's review of discretionary funding. All SLAs are reviewed annually in August.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 That the Service Level Agreement grants be awarded for 2019/20 as proposed at 3.1 above.

27 August 2019

Will Austin
Town Clerk